

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-17 are pending this application. Claims 1, 3, 8, 10, 16, and 17 stand rejected and Claims 2, 4-7, 9 and 11-15 are withdrawn from consideration. By this Amendment, claim 19 has been cancelled. In light of the amendments and remarks set forth below, Applicant respectfully submits that each of the pending claims is in immediate condition for allowance.

Claim 19 was objected to. The subject matter of Claim 19 is now recited in Claim 8. Therefore, claim 19 has been cancelled.

Claims 1, 3, 8, 10 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP11-320989 ("Sakai"). Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Among the limitations of independent Claim 1 not present in Sakai are "wherein the control unit activates the medium transport device in such a way that the medium transport device carries out a rest state transport at periodic intervals, and carries out the rest state transport at the start of an activation of the printer caused by receipt of a print job before processing the print job."

As expressly recited in Claim 1, the rest state transport occurs at two distinct times under control of the control unit. The rest state transport occurs at (1) periodic intervals and (2) at the start of an activation of the printer caused by receipt of a print job. In other words, the first activation is that the printer periodically activates the transport device so that the printing medium is not stored statically between print jobs. Additionally a second activation occurs to ensure that the print medium is movable, the control device activates the transport device upon receipt of a print job. Sakai is silent with respect to this second activation of the medium transport device.

Sakai only discloses activating a platen roller at fixed time intervals. Sakai recognizes that without moving the recording medium at periodic intervals, the recording medium can be welded by pressure between a thermal head and a platen roller during standby. Additionally, grease applied to parts that perform the print medium conveyance can harden. (Sakai at par [0003]). To cure this problem, Sakai periodically activates the platen roller so that the printing medium is moved. However, Sakai fails to activate the platen roller prior to printing in response to a print command.

The Examiner asserts that adding this second activation of the platen roller to the procedure disclosed by Sakai would be obvious. However, we note that according to Sakai, such an activation would be unnecessary because the periodic activation of the platen rollers during standby is sufficient to prevent the print medium from being welded. No additional activations to move the platen roller would be required. There is no teaching or suggestion in Sakai to include this additional rest state transport. The only suggestion for the second activation is in Applicant's own disclosure. Therefore, the activation of the printer caused by receipt of a print job, the second activation, as explicitly recited in Claim 1 would not be added in Sakai by a person of ordinary skill in the art based on Sakai's disclosure. For at least this reason, we submit that Claim 1 and its dependent claims are allowable over Sakai.

Applicant has responded to all of the rejections and objections recited in the Office Action. Reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance for all of the pending claims are therefore respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes an interview would be of assistance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 503111.

Respectfully submitted,
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